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Optimal Control of Sleep Periods for Wireless Terminals*

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Abstract

We consider a mobile connected to a base station, and study how to optimally schedule shutting off its transceiver. First, we study the model from optimal control perspective. We consider off-times (periods of inactivity) of (controlled) duration. We study the question of scheduling “waking up” instants in which the mobile communicates with the base station and checks whether the inactivity period is over. There is a cost proportional to the delay from the moment the off-time ends until the mobile discovers it, a (small) running cost while the mobile is sleeping and a cost for waking up. We present conditions for optimal sleep periods to be constant and derive the optimal period. For the case that the conditions do not hold, we obtain suboptimal solutions which perform strictly better than the optimal constant one. We then investigate optimality restricted to classes of policies with specific constraints. We adopt the parametric optimization approach which entails cost minimization for a given parameterized policy and selection of the best policy among a class. We then compare the performance of optimal policies, of the proposed suboptimal policies as well as that of standard policies like IEEE 802.16e.

keywords — Dynamic programming, optimization, performance evaluation, WiMAX.

1 Introduction

Mobile terminals using contemporary radios consume a significant amount of energy, while being idle. One way to reduce the consumed energy and increase battery life is to shut off the transceiver totally, i.e., put the mobile terminal into sleep mode. This approach has been recently supported by novel protocols like IEEE 802.16e [1] and 3GPP LTE [2] where a general framework for sleep is

defined. Since these standards allow for vendor design of the sleep policy, optimal design of such policies is an open issue of great interest.

Nevertheless, shutting off the transceiver whenever there is no scheduled activity has side effects on the responsiveness of the terminal. If the attention of the mobile is suddenly required, the transceiver might be shut off and thus the mobile unavailable. The longer the sleep periods, the longer the expected response delay. Therefore, one can identify an inherent tradeoff of energy management: increase sleep period length to improve energy saving or decrease sleep period length to reduce delays. Careful scheduling of sleep periods is then needed in order to minimize energy consumption while keeping the delays small.

Related Work Since the initial announcement of IEEE 802.16e Standards for mobility [1], there has been an important volume of performance studies on the subject. The first approach is found in [3]. In an effort to relax some assumptions, [4–6] study the impact of outgoing traffic, [7, 8] study the effect of setup time while [9–11] deal with queueing implications in the analysis. [12] deals with the multiclass version of sleep mode in IEEE 802.16e. The impact of bidirectional traffic on sleep mode is studied in [13] and correlated traffic is studied in [14] which is applied to IEEE 802.16m.

The above models assume a Poisson process for the packet arrivals. The Poisson modeling is rationalized by the fact that the activity requests are generated by a potentially very large population of sources. In [15], the authors are using hyper-Erlang distribution for the packet interarrival period. In [16, 17], hyper-exponential arrivals are proposed. In any of the above cases, an exogenous arrival process that does not depend on the energy management scheme is considered. Moreover, the delay metric taken is the average packet delay in the system.

Regarding the process of arriving packets, there are other works that provide evidence of heavy-tailed off-time distributions on the Internet and on the World Wide Web (e.g., a Pareto type distribution). In [18] the operator’s idle periods are found to be heavy-tailed. As heavy-tailed distributed random variables can be well approximated

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by hyper-exponential distributions [16, 19], this gives motivation to study off-times with hyper-exponential distributions. In [20] we modeled the arrival process as a hyper-exponential process to investigate sleep mode.

Recent works [7, 21, 22] focus on heuristic adaptive algorithms whose goal is to control the sleep period length according to the incoming arrival process. The work [23] derives an optimal sleep policy using average cost structure for a given number of consecutive sleep durations. In [24], we derive the optimal sleep policy in a given class of policies.

Our work departs from the existing models in the following aspect: rather than assuming an exogenous independent arrival process, we have in mind elastic arrival processes in which (i) the duration of the activity period does not depend on the response delay—defined as the duration between the instant a request is issued and the instant at which the service actually begins—and (ii) the off-time begins when the activity of the mobile ends. Both assumptions are appropriate to interactive applications such as web browsing, see [25] for a coupling between traffic models and actual applications. As a result, the measure for delay is taken to be the mobile’s response delay to the oldest activity request taking place while in sleep mode.

Contribution Our objective is to obtain the optimal sleep policy; the policy which minimizes the energy consumption and the system response delay simultaneously, while maintaining the desired balance between the two (the balance is expressed via a weight). For the off-time period distribution we will consider a. Exponential distribution; b. Hyper-exponential distribution; c. General distribution.

Off-times of exponentially distributed length correspond to the Poisson arrivals case. Also, we shall consider the case when the parameter of the exponential distribution is unknown but we have a known prior distribution on that parameter. This is equivalent to using a hyper-exponential distribution for the off-time. Modeling the hyper-exponential distribution for off-times will offer insight to the case of heavy-tailed distributions as well. Lastly, we will provide structural results for the optimal policy in case of general distributions.

We seek both for policies that are globally optimal as well as for policies that are optimal within some subclasses of policies. We study in particular optimality within some sets of policies that can easily be parameterized. In particular, we study the performance of the IEEE 802.16e standard mechanism. These standards provide degrees of freedom for the vendor which we utilize to optimize the performance. We show, that in many cases, the proposed standards are suboptimal in the sense that even if the best parameters are selected, the optimal performance cannot be achieved.

Our contributions are the following:

1. We formulate the problem of cost minimization where the cost is a weighted function of energy consumption and response delay measured from the first activity request when inactive. We show that this cost indeed depends on the off-time distribution as well as the selected sleep policy.
2. We use dynamic programming (DP) and show that:
 - For exponential off-times, the constant sleep period is optimal and given in closed form.
 - For hyper-exponential off-times, interesting structural properties exist. In particular, we show that the optimal policy has sleep periods of bounded length. Asymptotically, the optimal policy converges to the constant policy corresponding to the smallest rate phase, irrespective of the initial state. This optimal policy can be computed numerically using value iteration.
 - For any general off-time distribution, the optimal policy has sleep periods of bounded length.
3. We propose suboptimal policies using policy iteration which perform strictly better than optimal “homogeneous” policies and are simpler to compute. We show numerically the performance of such suboptimal solutions using one stage and two stage policy iteration.
4. We use parametric optimization to identify optimal parameters for the following family of sleep policies: (i) Random exponential periods; they can be derived in closed form for any off-time distribution. (ii) Constant periods. (iii) Scaled and General random periods. (iv) Semi-constant periods. (v) Multiplicative periods; similar to those used in WiMAX. (vi) General deterministic periods.
5. We compare the proposed policies with that of the IEEE 802.16e standard [1] under various statistical assumptions.

Structure The rest of the paper is structured as follows: Section 2 outlines our system model, introduces the cost function and presents some preliminary calculations for the rest of the paper. Section 3 introduces DP and derives the optimal sleep control and relevant characteristics for hyper-exponential off-times. Section 3.4 tackles the problem of finding the optimal policy under the worst case process of arrivals. In 4, the parametric optimization preliminaries are laid out. Section 4.1 investigates policies with identically distributed sleep periods while those with non-identically distributed ones are tackled in Section 4.2. Numerical results and a comparative study of the different optimal policies and of the IEEE 802.16e standards are reported in Section 5. We finally conclude the paper in Section 6. We refer several proofs to [26].

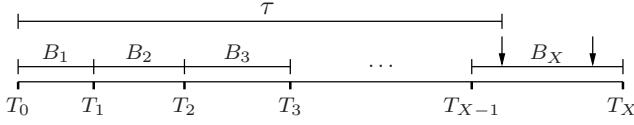


Figure 1: An inactivity period T_X . At time T_i , the mobile decides on a sleep period length B_{i+1} and returns to sleep. At time $T_{i+1} = T_i + B_{i+1}$, it wakes up to check for activity requests. The inactivity period ends when an activity request is detected on a listen period.

2 System Model

We consider a mobile terminal connected to a base station. The terminal goes through consecutive active and inactive periods. Focusing on periods of inactivity, the terminal goes through a sequence of sleep and listen periods until an incoming activity request is detected, see Fig. 1. In particular, in the beginning of each sleep period, the device chooses the sleep period length (also called sleep mode window in the IEEE 802.16e standards) while the listen period length window is considered negligible. At the end of the sleep period, the terminal communicates with the base station to check for activity requests. In case there is no incoming activity waiting at the base station, a fixed energy cost is incurred for checking the system state. In case at least one activity has arrived, the inactivity period is finished and a delay cost is incurred depending on the waiting time of the first activity request (the oldest one), which itself depends on the terminal's choice for the sleep period length.

An equivalent modeling of the system is one that considers a server that goes on repeated vacations, see [10]. The incoming traffic load is replaced by customers waiting to be served and the vacation length is then equivalent to sleep period length. In this paper we will use the same notation as [10] but refer to sleep periods instead.

Let X denote the number of sleep periods in an inactivity period. X is a discrete random variable (rv) taking values in \mathbb{N}^* . The duration of the k th sleep period is a rv denoted B_k , for $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$. For analytical tractability, we consider periods $\{B_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}^*}$ that are mutually independent rvs. The time at the end of the k th sleep period is a rv denoted T_k , for $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$. We denote T_0 as the time at the beginning of the first sleep period; by convention $T_0 = 0$. We naturally have $T_k = T_{k-1} + B_k = \sum_{i=1}^k B_i$. Note that a generic inactivity period ends at time T_X .

We will be using the following notation $\mathcal{Y}(s) := \mathbb{E}[\exp(-sY)]$ to denote the Laplace-Stieltjes transform of a generic rv Y evaluated at s . Hence, we can readily write $\mathcal{J}_k(s) = \prod_{i=1}^k \mathcal{B}_i(s)$.

Let τ denote the time length between the start of the

first sleep period and the arrival of an activity request; this time is referred to as the “off-time”. Since a generic inactivity period ends at time T_X , the service of the first activity request to arrive during the inactivity period will be delayed for $T_X - \tau$ units of time. τ is a rv whose probability density function is $f_\tau(t)$, $t \geq 0$. In most of the cases, and unless otherwise stated, we will be assuming that τ is hyper-exponentially distributed with n phases and parameters $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ and $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$. In other words, we have

$$f_\tau(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \lambda_i \exp(-\lambda_i t), \quad \sum_{i=1}^n q_i = 1. \quad (1)$$

Given its definition, the off-time τ is also the conditional residual inter-arrival time. Observe that when $n = 1$, τ will be exponentially distributed with parameter $\lambda = \lambda_1$, which, thanks to the memoryless property of this distribution, is equivalent to having a Poisson arrival process with rate λ .

The power required by a mobile to keep the transceiver on while *listening* to the channel and checking for requests (packets or flows) is denoted P_L . We assume that the listen period is a fixed parameter, which makes the energy consumed during listen periods a fixed quantity, name it E_L . This is actually a penalty paid at the end of each sleep period. Instead, while *sleeping* (the device is turned off), the *power* consumed is denoted by P_S , with $P_S < P_L$. The energy consumed by a mobile during sleep period B_k is then equal to $E_L + P_S B_k$, and that consumed during a generic inactivity period is equal to $E_L X + P_S T_X$. The device is then eager to use longer sleep periods in order to save energy and extend battery lifetime.

In the spirit of achieving a Quality of Service (QoS) tradeoff, we are interested in finding the optimal policy that minimizes energy consumption and delay. Formally, we are interested in minimizing the cost of the power save mode, which is seen as a weighted sum of the energy consumed during the power save mode and the *extra* delay incurred on the traffic by a sleeping mobile. Let V be this cost; it is written as follows

$$V := \mathbb{E}[\bar{\epsilon}(T_X - \tau) + \epsilon(E_L X + P_S T_X)] \quad (2)$$

$$= -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + \epsilon E_L \mathbb{E}[X] + \eta \mathbb{E}[T_X] \quad (3)$$

where ϵ is a *normalized weight* that takes value between 0 and 1; $\bar{\epsilon} = 1 - \epsilon$; $\eta := \bar{\epsilon} + \epsilon P_S$; and the expectation is taken over the random off-time τ as well as the randomness of selected sleep periods (if they are selected at random).

The derivation of the elements of (3) when τ is hyper-

¹Given that our objective is to study energy saving, the value $X = 0$ is not allowed.

exponentially distributed is straightforward. We derive

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X = k) &= P(\tau > T_{k-1}) - P(\tau > T_k) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \mathcal{T}_{k-1}(\lambda_i) (1 - \mathcal{B}_k(\lambda_i)); \\
\mathbb{E}[\tau] &= \sum_{i=1}^n q_i / \lambda_i; \quad \mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \mathcal{T}_k(\lambda_i); \\
\mathbb{E}[T_X] &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \mathcal{T}_k(\lambda_i) \mathbb{E}[B_{k+1}]. \quad (4)
\end{aligned}$$

Using (3)-(4), the cost can be rewritten

$$V = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \mathcal{T}_k(\lambda_i) (\epsilon E_L + \eta \mathbb{E}[B_{k+1}]). \quad (5)$$

Equation (5) is very interesting in that the off-time τ appears only through its expectation. Given that the cost depends only on $\mathbb{E}[\tau]$, so will the minimal cost and the optimal control. This is true for any distribution of the sleep periods.

For convenience, we have grouped the major notation used in the paper in Table 2.

3 Dynamic Programming

Dynamic programming (DP) is a well-known tool which allows to compute the optimal decision policy to be taken at each intermediate observation point, taking into account the whole lifetime of the system. Considering our system model, we want to identify the optimal sleep policy where decisions are taken at each intermediate wake-up instance. Hence, a DP approach is a natural candidate for determining the optimal policy.

The observation points are at the end of the sleep periods, i.e., at t_k . The conditional residual off-time at a time t is denoted τ_t . We introduce the following DP:

$$V_k^*(t_k) = \min_{b_{k+1} \geq 0} \{ \mathbb{E}[c(t_k, b_{k+1})] + P(\tau_{t_k} > b_{k+1}) V_{k+1}^*(t_{k+1}) \}.$$

Here, $V_k^*(t_k)$ represents the optimal cost at time t_k where the argument t_k denotes the state of the system at time t_k . The terms $P(\tau_{t_k} > b_{k+1})$ and $c(t_k, b_{k+1})$ respectively represent the transition probability and the stage cost at t_k when the control is b_{k+1} . In generic notation, the per stage cost is

$$c(t, b) = \bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[(b - \tau_t) \mathbb{1}_{\tau_t \leq b}] + \epsilon(E_L + P_S b). \quad (6)$$

We can see that each stage is characterized by the distribution of the residual off-time τ_t . The state of the system in sleep mode can then be described by the distribution of τ_t .

In the rest of this section, three cases will be considered following the distribution of the off-time. We start with

Table 1: Glossary of notations

X	Number of sleep periods
B_k	Duration of k th sleep period
T_k	Elapsed time until k th sleep period, $T_k = \sum_{i=1}^k B_i$
T_0	Starting time of power save mode, $T_0 = 0$
E_L	Energy consumed in the listen period
P_S	Power consumed by a mobile in a sleep state
$\epsilon, \bar{\epsilon}$	Normalized energy/delay weight, $0 < \epsilon \leq 1$, $\bar{\epsilon} = 1 - \epsilon$
V	Cost function
$c(t, b)$	Cost incurred by sleep period of size b having started at time t
W_{-1}	Branch of the Lambert W function that is real-valued on the interval $[-\exp(-1), 0]$ and always below -1
λ, \mathbf{q}	rate/probability vector in the n -phase hyper-exponential distribution, $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$, $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$
τ	Off-time (i.e., arrival time of first activity request)
τ_t	Conditional residual off-time (i.e., from t to the arrival of first activity request)
\mathbf{B}	$= \{B_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}^*}$, generic sleep policy
\mathbf{b}	Parameter of the policy \mathbf{B}
α	Parameter of the distribution of B_k for Scaled policy
\mathbf{p}	Distribution of B_k for Scaled and General Discrete policies
\mathcal{Y}	Laplace-Stieltjes transform of a random variable Y
η	$= \bar{\epsilon} + \epsilon P_S$, $0 < \eta \leq 1 + P_S$
ζ_i	$= 1 + \frac{\lambda_i \epsilon E_L}{\eta}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, $\zeta_i > 1$

the DP solution for exponential off-times, then derive some structural properties of the DP solution for hyper-exponential off-times. Last, the case of general off-times is considered: structural properties of the optimal policy are found and then suboptimal solutions through DP are discussed.

3.1 Exponential Off-Time

By setting $n = 1$ in (1) we study the particular case of Poisson arrivals with rate λ (in the next subsection we will study the case of arbitrary n). In such a case, both the off-time τ and the conditional residual off-time τ_t will be exponentially distributed with parameter λ , for all t (i.e., for any stage). The distribution of τ_t is characterized solely by the rate λ . In other words, as time goes on, the state of the system is always represented by the parameter λ . Henceforth, the DP involves a single state, denoted λ .

We are faced with a Markov Decision Process (MDP), a single state λ , a Borel action space (the positive real numbers) and discrete time. Note that the sleep durations are not discrete. However, decisions are taken at discrete embedded times: the k th decision is taken at the end of the $(k-1)$ st sleep period. Therefore, we are dealing with a discrete time MDP. This is called “negative” dynamic programming [27]. It follows from [28] that we can restrict to stationary policies (that depend only on the state) and that do not require randomization. Since there is only one state (at which decisions are taken), this implies that one can restrict to sleep periods that are fixed and of same size each time a decision has to be taken. In other words, the optimal sleep policy is the constant one. Hence the optimal value is given by the minimization of the following MDP:

$$V^*(\lambda) = \min_{b \geq 0} \{ \bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[(b - \tau(\lambda)) \mathbf{1}_{\tau(\lambda) \leq b}] + \epsilon(E_L + bP_S) + P(\tau(\lambda) > b)V^*(\lambda) \}. \quad (7)$$

Proposition 3.1 *The optimal sleep period length for exponential off-time and the minimal cost are given by*

$$b^* = -\frac{1}{\lambda} (\zeta + W_{-1}(-e^{-\zeta})); \quad (8)$$

$$V^*(\lambda) = -\frac{1}{\lambda} (\bar{\epsilon} + \eta W_{-1}(-e^{-\zeta})), \quad (9)$$

with $\zeta := 1 + \lambda \epsilon E_L / \eta$, and where W_{-1} denotes the branch of the Lambert W function² that is real-valued on the interval $[-\exp(-1), 0]$ and always below -1 .

3.2 Hyper-Exponential Off-Time

We assume in this section that τ is hyper-exponentially distributed with n phases and parameters $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ and $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$.

3.2.1 Distribution of the Conditional Residual off-time τ_t

The tail of τ_t can be computed as follows

$$\begin{aligned} P(\tau_t > a) &= P(\tau > t + a \mid \tau > t) = \frac{P(\tau > t + a)}{P(\tau > t)} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n q_i \exp(-\lambda_i t) \exp(-\lambda_i a)}{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j \exp(-\lambda_j t)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n g_i(\mathbf{q}, t) \exp(-\lambda_i a) \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where

$$g_i(\mathbf{q}, t) := \frac{q_i \exp(-\lambda_i t)}{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j \exp(-\lambda_j t)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n. \quad (11)$$

²The Lambert W function, satisfies $W(x) \exp(W(x)) = x$. As $y \exp(y) = x$ has an infinite number of solutions y for each (non-zero) value of x , the function $W(x)$ has an infinite number of branches.

We denote $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, t)$ as the n -tuple of functions $g_i(\mathbf{q}, t)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Observe that $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, 0) = \mathbf{q}$. The operator \mathbf{g} transforms the distribution \mathbf{q} into another distribution \mathbf{q}' such that $\sum_{j=1}^n q'_j = 1$ and $q'_j > 0$.

Equation (10) is nothing but the tail of a hyper-exponential rv having n phases and parameters $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ and $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, t)$. Except for the probabilities of the n phases, the off-time τ and its residual time τ_t have the same distribution and same parameter $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$. As time goes on, the residual time keeps its distribution but updates its phases' probabilities, through the operator \mathbf{g} . It can be shown that

$$g_i(\mathbf{q}, b_1 + b_2) = g_i(g_i(\mathbf{q}, b_1), b_2). \quad (12)$$

In other words, the operator \mathbf{g} is such that the result of the transformation after $b_1 + b_2$ units of time is the same as that of a first transformation after b_1 units of time, followed by a second transformation after b_2 units of time.

To simplify the notation, we will drop the subscript of the residual off-time τ_t , and instead, we will add as argument the current probability distribution (which is transformed over time through the operator \mathbf{g}). For instance, if at some point in time, the residual off-time has the probability distribution \mathbf{q}' , then we will use the notation $\tau(\mathbf{q}')$.

The results above can be extended to account for a random passed time T . We have

$$P(\tau > T + a \mid \tau > T) = \sum_{i=1}^n g_i(\mathbf{q}, T) \exp(-\lambda_i a)$$

where

$$g_i(\mathbf{q}, T) := \frac{q_i \mathcal{T}(\lambda_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n q_j \mathcal{T}(\lambda_j)} = \frac{q_i \mathcal{T}(\lambda_i)}{P(\tau > T)}. \quad (13)$$

There is an abuse of notation in the definition of $g_i(\mathbf{q}, T)$, as this function depends on the *distribution* of T and not on the rv T itself. The function $g_i(\mathbf{q}, T)$ is *not* a rv. Observe that (11), where time is deterministic, is a particular case of (13). Asymptotic properties of \mathbf{g} are provided next.

Define the composition $\mathbf{g}^m(\mathbf{q}, b) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{g}^{m-1}(\mathbf{q}, b), b) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, mb)$, where $\mathbf{g}^1(\mathbf{q}, b)$ is the vector whose i th element is given in (11). Assume, without loss of generality, that $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$. Let $\mathbf{e}(i)$ be the n -dimensional vector whose i th element is 1 and all other elements are zero.

Lemma 3.1 *Fix \mathbf{q} and let $I(\mathbf{q})$ be the smallest j for which $q_j > 0$. Then $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{g}^m(\mathbf{q}, b) = \mathbf{e}(I(\mathbf{q}))$.*

Lemma 3.1 states that, as time passes, the residual off-time's distribution translates its mass towards the phase with the smallest rate, and converges asymptotically irrespective of the initial distribution. This suggests that there exists a threshold on the time after which the optimal policy is the one that corresponds to the optimal policy for state $I(\mathbf{q})$.

Lemma 3.2 For any \mathbf{q} we have $\lim_{\mathbf{q}' \rightarrow \mathbf{q}} V(\mathbf{q}') = V(\mathbf{q})$.

Lemma 3.2 states that as the state converges, the value also converges to the value at the converged state.

3.2.2 DP Solution

Below we formulate the optimization problem as an MDP where the state space is taken to be the simplex of dimension n , i.e. the set of probability measures over the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. At each stage, the residual off-time sees its probability distribution being updated. Let \mathbf{q}^0 denote the probability distribution of the *total* off-time. It is then the probability distribution of the residual off-time at time 0. Thanks to the property (12), the probability distribution of the residual off-time at stage $k + 1$, i.e., at time t_k , is $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}^0, t_k)$. Henceforth, there is a one to one relation between the stage and the current probability distribution of the residual off-time. Without loss of optimality, either of them can be the state in the MDP [29, Sect. 5.4].

The system state is denoted \mathbf{q} and represents the *current* probability distribution of the residual off-time. The initial state is \mathbf{q}^0 . We assume that the controller can choose any time b (a constant or a rv) until he wakes up. The transition probabilities are simply $P_{\mathbf{q}, b, \mathbf{q}'} = \mathbb{1}_{\mathbf{q}' = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, b)}$.

We are faced with an MDP with a Borel action space and a state space that is the set of probability vectors \mathbf{q} . Note however that, starting from a given \mathbf{q} , there is a countable set Q of \mathbf{q} 's so that only states within Q can be reached from \mathbf{q} . Therefore we may restrict the state space to the countable set Q . We can again use [28] to conclude that we may restrict to policies that choose at each state a non-randomized decision b , and the decision depends only on the current state (and need not depend on the previous history). We next show that there is some \bar{b} such that actions may be restricted to the compact interval $[0, \bar{b}]$ without loss of optimality.

Consider the policy w that takes always a constant one unit length sleep period. It is easily seen that the total expected cost, when using policy w , is upper bounded by $\bar{v} := \bar{\epsilon} + \epsilon(1 + \sup_i 1/\lambda_i)(E_L + P_S)$. Here, $\bar{\epsilon}$ is an upper bound on the expected waiting cost and $1 + \sup_i 1/\lambda_i$ is an upper bound on $\mathbb{E}[X]$, the expected number of sleep periods, and on $\mathbb{E}[T_X]$, the expected off-time duration. We conclude that

Lemma 3.3 For all \mathbf{q} , $V(\mathbf{q}) \leq \bar{v}$.

Lemma 3.4 Without loss of optimality, one may restrict to policies that take only actions within $[0, \bar{b}]$ where $\bar{b} = (1/\bar{\epsilon})\{\bar{v} + 1 + 1/(\min_i \lambda_i)\}$.

Proof : Let u be an ϵ -optimal Markov policy that does not use randomization, where $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$. If $u_i > \bar{b}$ for

some i then the expected immediate cost at step i is itself larger than 1 plus the total expected cost that would be incurred under the policy w : $\mathbb{E}[(b - \tau(\mathbf{q}))\mathbb{1}_{\tau(\mathbf{q}) \leq b}] > \bar{v} + 1$. Thus, by switching from time i onwards to w , the expected cost strictly decreases by at least 1 unit; thus u cannot be ϵ -optimal. ■

We conclude that the MDP can be viewed as one with a countable state space, compact action space, discrete time, and non-negative costs (known as “negative dynamic programming”). Using [27] we then conclude:

- (i) The optimal value (minimal cost) is given by the minimal solution of the following DP:

$$V(\mathbf{q}) = \min_{b \geq 0} \{ \bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[(b - \tau(\mathbf{q}))\mathbb{1}_{\tau(\mathbf{q}) \leq b}] + \epsilon(E_L + bP_S) + P(\tau(\mathbf{q}) > b)V(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, b)) \}. \quad (14)$$

- (ii) Let $B(\mathbf{q})$ denote the set of all b 's that minimize the right hand side of (14) for a given \mathbf{q} . Then any policy that chooses at state \mathbf{q} some $b \in B(\mathbf{q})$ is optimal.

The value iteration can be used as an iterative method to compute $V(\mathbf{q})$. Starting with $V_0 = 0$ we write

$$V_{k+1}(\mathbf{q}) = \min_{b \geq 0} \{ \bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[(b - \tau(\mathbf{q}))\mathbb{1}_{\tau(\mathbf{q}) \leq b}] + \epsilon(E_L + bP_S) + P(\tau(\mathbf{q}) > b)V_k(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, b)) \}.$$

Then $V(\mathbf{q}) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} V_k(\mathbf{q})$, see [29]. The iteration is to be performed for every possible state \mathbf{q} . Lemma 3.1 implies that the moving state, $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, b)$, converges asymptotically to $\mathbf{e}(I(\mathbf{q}))$. To complete the value iteration, we compute, for a fixed b ,

$$\mathbb{E}[(b - \tau(\mathbf{q}))\mathbb{1}_{\tau(\mathbf{q}) \leq b}] = b - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \frac{1 - \exp(-\lambda_i b)}{\lambda_i}.$$

3.3 General Distribution of Off-Time

In this section, off-times have a general distribution. As a consequence, one can no longer expect that the residual off-time will keep the same distribution over time, updating only its parameters. Therefore, the system state is the instant t at which a sleep period is to start. We use again τ_t to denote the conditional residual value of τ at time t (i.e., $\tau - t$ given that $\tau > t$).

As a state space, we consider the set of non-negative real numbers. An action b is the duration of the next sleep period. We shall assume that b can take value in a finite set. The set of t reachable (with positive probability) by some policy is countable. We can thus assume without loss of generality that the state space is discrete. Then the following holds:

Proposition 3.2

- (i) There exists an optimal deterministic stationary policy.

(ii) Let $V^0 := 0$, $V^{k+1} := \mathcal{L}V^k$, where

$$\mathcal{L}V(t) := \min_b \{c(t, b) + P(\tau_t > b)V(t + b)\}$$

where $c(t, b)$ has been defined in (6). Then V^k converges monotonically to the optimal value V^* .

(iii) V^* is the smallest nonnegative solution of $V^* = \mathcal{L}V^*$. A stationary policy that chooses at state t an action that achieves the minimum of $\mathcal{L}V^*$ is optimal.

Proof : (i) follows from [27, Thm 7.3.6], and (ii) from [27, Thm 7.3.10]. Part (iii) is due to [27, Thm 7.3.3]. ■

Observe that V^k expresses the optimal cost for the problem of minimizing the total cost over a horizon of k steps.

Proposition 3.3 Assume that τ_t converges in distribution to some limit $\hat{\tau}$. Define $v(b) := \hat{c}(b)/[1 - P(\hat{\tau} > b)]$. Then (i) $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} V^*(t) = \min_b v(b)$. (ii) Assume that there is a unique b that achieves the minimum of $v(b)$ and denote it by \hat{b} . Then there is some stationary optimal policy $b(t)$ such that for all t large enough, $b(t)$ equals \hat{b} .

To recapitulate, we have shown, that for a general off-time, it is enough to consider deterministic policies to achieve optimal performance. Also, if the residual off-time distribution converges in time then the optimal policy converges to the constant policy and in fact becomes constant after finite time (under the appropriate conditions). This can be shown to be the case with the hyper-exponential distribution. Indeed, its residual time converges in distribution to an exponential distribution, having as parameter the smallest among the rates of the hyper-exponential distribution.

3.3.1 Suboptimal policies through Dynamic Programming

In this section, we propose a suboptimal solution approach using policy iteration for a few stages. For the rest of the stages, we consider a static control that is computed through parametric optimization, which is done next.

Consider a class of policies in which all sleep periods are i.i.d. exponentially distributed rvs with parameter b . We will refer to this class as the “Exponential sleep policy.” With this policy, the cost, denoted V_e , depends only on $\mathbb{E}[\tau]$, as detailed hereafter. Conditioning on a given off-time τ , the number of sleep periods decremented by one is a Poisson variable with rate τ/b . It is straightforward to write

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[\tau]/b + 1; \quad \mathbb{E}[T_X] = b\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[\tau] + b.$$

Equation (3) can be rewritten (recall that $\eta = \bar{\epsilon} + \epsilon P_S$)

$$V_e = \epsilon(P_S + E_L/b)\mathbb{E}[\tau] + \epsilon E_L + \eta b. \quad (15)$$

Observe that (15) stands for any distribution of τ . We next find the optimal total cost under the Exponential policy.

Proposition 3.4 The cost V_e is a convex function having a minimum at

$$b_e^* = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon E_L \mathbb{E}[\tau]}{\bar{\epsilon} + \epsilon P_S}}. \quad (16)$$

The minimal total cost is

$$V_e^* = \epsilon(P_S \mathbb{E}[\tau] + E_L) + 2\sqrt{\epsilon(\bar{\epsilon} + \epsilon P_S)E_L \mathbb{E}[\tau]} \quad (17)$$

Proof : Let us compute the first and second derivative of the cost w.r.t. b . We find

$$V_e' = \eta - \frac{\epsilon E_L \mathbb{E}[\tau]}{b^2}; \quad V_e'' = 2\frac{\epsilon E_L \mathbb{E}[\tau]}{b^3}.$$

Clearly, $V_e'' \geq 0$ for any $b > 0$, hence V_e is a convex function. The derivative V_e' has a root at b_e^* as given in (16), which yields a minimum in the cost V_e at b_e^* . Substituting the optimal b_e^* in (15) we obtain the minimal cost (17). ■

The optimal control is b_e^* . Proposition 3.4 is really interesting in that it says that with i.i.d. exponential sleep periods, only the expected off-time defines the optimal control. The off-time τ can be generally distributed. Therefore, Proposition 3.4 stands valid for any user application.

Now that we have computed the static control for all stages, we proceed with one stage policy iteration. With this iteration, the sleep periods have the form (b_1, B, B, \dots) where B is an exponentially distributed rv with mean b . We can use DP to compute the optimal policy within this class. The problem is given by

$$V_1^*(0) = \min_{b \geq 0} \{c(0, b_1) + P(\tau > b_1)V^*(b_1)\} \quad (18)$$

where $V^*(b_1)$ is equivalent to V_e^* in (17) after replacing the off-time τ with the residual off-time at time b_1 , i.e., τ_{b_1} . The optimal control identified through DP is b_1^* and b^* .

When τ is hyper-exponentially distributed, the system state is the distribution \mathbf{q} which is transformed after each stage through the operator \mathbf{g} .

If we add the constraint that the first sleep period should be exponentially distributed with the same distribution as B , then we will be back to the problem of finding an optimal exponentially distributed sleep period with state-independent mean. Since we do not impose

this restriction, the policy obtained after one stage iteration will do strictly better than the exponential sleep policy.

This suboptimal method for one stage policy iteration can be extended to more stages. Instances of the two stage policy iteration are provided in Sect. 5. As the number of stages of the policy iteration increases, the suboptimal solution converges to the optimal solution (obtained from (14) if τ is hyper-exponentially distributed).

3.4 Worst Case Performance

We consider in this section the case where the off-time is exponentially distributed with an unknown parameter. When the distribution of the parameter is known (Bayesian framework) the problem reduces to the study of the hyper-exponentially distributed off-time. In practice there could be many situations when the statistical distribution of the off-time is unknown or hard to estimate. In such non-Bayesian frameworks, we can conduct a worst-case analysis: optimize the performance under the worst case choice of the unknown parameter. We assume that this parameter lies within the interval $[\lambda_a, \lambda_b]$. The worst case is identified as follows $\lambda_w := \arg \max_{\lambda \in [\lambda_a, \lambda_b]} \min_{\{B_k\}, k \in \mathbb{N}^*} V$. Given that τ is assumed to be exponentially distributed, it is enough to analyze the case of the Constant sleep policy, which has been found to be the optimal in Sect. 3.1. The minimal cost under this policy is given in (9). We have studied (9) using the mathematics software tool, Maple 11. We found the following: $V^*(\lambda)$ is a monotonic function, decreasing with λ ; $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} V^*(\lambda) = \epsilon E_L$; and $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} V^*(\lambda) = +\infty$. Thus, the optimal control under worst case is the one corresponding to the smallest rate in the interval considered, i.e., $\lambda_w = \lambda_a$.

4 Parametric Optimization

In this section we provide computations of the total cost of equation (5) for the case of some interesting parametric policies. We repeat here the equation for ease of reading,

$$V(\mathbf{b}) = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \mathcal{J}_k(\lambda_i) (\epsilon E_L + \eta \mathbb{E}[B_{k+1}]), \quad (19)$$

where \mathbf{b} above is the vector of selected sleep period lengths. Then we calculate the optimal parameters for these policies which can be used for comparison. In particular, for the Exponential and Constant policies we give closed form results while the rest of the policies are derived up to a point where they are evaluated numerically.

4.1 Identically Distributed Sleep Periods

This section deals with identically distributed sleep periods, in other words, the control is static. Let B be a generic rv having the same distribution as any of the sleep periods. Thence, (19) can be rewritten as

$$V(\mathbf{b}) = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + (\epsilon E_L + \eta \mathbb{E}[B]) \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{1 - \mathcal{B}(\lambda_i)}. \quad (20)$$

We now propose different policies and derive the optimal control in each case. The policies that are considered are: (i) “Exponential” policy: B is exponentially distributed; one can control b , the expectation of B ; (ii) “Constant” policy: B is deterministic; one can control the constant sleep period length b ; (iii) “Scaled” policy: B is a scaled version of a known random variable S ; one can control the scale α ; (iv) “General discrete” policy: B has a discrete distribution with known possible values; one can control the distribution \mathbf{p} .

4.1.1 The Exponential Policy

In this policy, sleep periods are i.i.d. exponential random variables with mean $\mathbb{E}[B] = b$. The variable T_k is then Erlang distributed with shape k and rate $1/b$; $\mathbb{E}[T_k] = kb$. The off-time τ can have any distribution (we do not need τ to be hyper-exponentially distributed). With this policy, the cost, denoted $V_e(b)$, depends only on $\mathbb{E}[\tau]$, as detailed hereafter. Conditioning on a given off-time τ , the number of sleep periods decremented by one is a Poisson variable with rate τ/b . It is straightforward to write

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[\tau]/b + 1; \quad \mathbb{E}[T_X] = b\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[\tau] + b.$$

Equation (2) can be rewritten (recall that $\eta = \bar{\epsilon} + \epsilon P_S$)

$$V_e(b) = \epsilon(P_S + E_L/b) \mathbb{E}[\tau] + (\epsilon E_L + \eta b). \quad (21)$$

Remark 4.1 Equation (21) stands for any distribution of τ . We naturally obtain the same expression if we substitute $\mathcal{B}(s)$ for $1/(1 + bs)$ in (20). The same result is obtained via DP in section 3.3.1.

4.1.2 The Constant Policy

In this policy, all sleep periods are equally sized. In other words, $B = b$. The performance is optimized by controlling the size of b . Substituting $\mathcal{B}(s)$ for $\exp(-sb)$ in (20) yields the following simplified expression for the cost (the subscript stands for “constant”)

$$V_c(b) = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + (\epsilon E_L + \eta b) \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{1 - \exp(-\lambda_i b)}. \quad (22)$$

Proposition 3.1 yields the optimal values and the minimizer for the case of $n = 1$.

Proposition 4.1 *The cost $V_c(b)$ is a convex function having a minimum in $]0, \infty[$.*

Proposition 4.1 proves the existence of a global minimum. Unfortunately, we are not able to derive the optimal b_c^* analytically and use numerical methods to find b_c^* . The dimensionality of the problem can be showcased by the following result.

Proposition 4.2 *When $n > 1$, no optimal constant policy (deterministic with constant sleep period) can be independent of $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$.*

Proof : We develop a proof by contradiction. We assume that the optimal b_c^* does not depend on \mathbf{q} . Hence, the coefficients of the q_i 's must be null, namely, $1 - \exp(-\lambda_i b_c^*)(\zeta_i + \lambda_i b_c^*) = 0$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. For a given i , the solution is $b_c^* = -\frac{1}{\lambda_i}(\zeta_i + W_{-1}(-e^{-\zeta_i}))$ (cf. proof of Proposition 3.1). Since b_c^* is a constant, the left-hand-side of the above equality must be a constant whatever i is. This is not the case (the left-hand-side depends on λ_i). We have thereby shown that the optimal control b_c^* must depend on $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$ when $n > 1$. ■

4.1.3 The Scaled Policy

In this third policy, we consider the random sleep period B to be a factor α of a random variable S with a general distribution, i.e. $B = \alpha S$. For a given distribution of S , the scaling factor α is controlled to optimize the performance. The cost $V_s(\alpha)$ (the subscript stands for “scaled”) follows readily from (20) using $\mathcal{B}(s) = \mathcal{S}(\alpha s)$ and $\mathbb{E}[B] = \alpha \mathbb{E}[S]$.

We consider now that S is a discrete random variable taking values in a finite set $\{a_j\}_{j=1, \dots, J}$ with a probability distribution $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_J)$, i.e., $P(S = a_j) = p_j$ and $\sum_{j=1}^J p_j = 1$. Hence, $\mathcal{S}(s) = \sum_{j=1}^J p_j \exp(-s a_j)$, and $\mathbb{E}[S] = \sum_{j=1}^J p_j a_j$.

This policy advocates to have each sleep period follow a discrete general distribution, taking values in $\{\alpha a_j\}_{j=1, \dots, J}$. The probability distribution \mathbf{p} is assumed fixed whereas the set of possible values can be scaled for minimal cost.

The optimization problem can be stated as

$$V_s^* = \min_{\alpha > 0} V_s(\alpha); \quad \alpha^* = \arg V_s^*. \quad (23)$$

It is intractable to solve analytically (23), we will therefore resort to a numerical resolution (cf. Section 5).

4.1.4 The General Discrete Policy

The fourth policy resembles the third one in that it equally considers a discrete general sleep period for the variable B . However, the set of possible values is now

fixed (i.e., $\alpha = 1$) whereas the probability distribution \mathbf{p} can be optimized for minimal cost. We denote the cost as $V_g(\mathbf{p})$, where the subscript stands for “general”, and write

$$V_g(\mathbf{p}) = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i (\epsilon E_L + \eta \sum_{j=1}^J p_j a_j)}{1 - \sum_{j=1}^J p_j \exp(-\lambda_i a_j)}.$$

Our objective is to find $\mathbf{p}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{p}} V_g(\mathbf{p})$ such that $0 \leq p_j \leq 1$ for $j = 1, \dots, J$ and $\sum_{j=1}^J p_j = 1$. This optimization problem can only be solved numerically.

4.2 Non-identically Distributed Sleep Periods

If we relax the constraint of identically distributed sleep periods, the mobile is free to choose any sleep period distribution at each waking up instant, a fact that complicates the problem immensely. We will narrow the problem by considering only deterministic sleep periods.

The k^{th} sleep period is now of fixed size b_k , the instants $\{T_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ are now deterministic, and we let $t_k = T_k$ for any k to reflect this. We have $t_0 = 0$ and $t_k = \sum_{j=1}^k b_j$.

The policies that are considered in this section are: (i) “Semi-Constant” policy: Most sleep periods are equal; (ii) “Multiplicative” policy: Sleep periods increase with time; (iii) “General Deterministic” policy: Sleep periods can last for any positive time.

4.2.1 The Semi-Constant Policy

As the name indicates, only a few sleep periods are allowed to be of different size. This is expected to bring some improvement with respect to the Constant policy. For the sake of illustration, let the first sleep period be of size b_0 while all the subsequent ones are of size b . This particular policy will be referred to as “one-stage” policy. The cost is

$$V_{sc}(b_0, b) = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + (\epsilon E_L + \eta b) \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i \exp(-\lambda_i b_0)}{1 - \exp(-\lambda_i b)}. \quad (24)$$

Proposition 4.3 *For $n = 1$, all sleep periods are equal at optimum, i.e., $b_0^* = b^* = b_c^*$ (recall (8)).*

Notice that the m -stage Semi-Constant policy approaches the absolute optimal policy when $m \rightarrow \infty$. However, it adds immense computational complexity as m grows. Hence, for practical purposes, one can optimize until a few stages.

Also, note that the LTE standards propose an m -stage Semi-Constant policy where the first m stages have equal sleep period length and then the system switches to another value (usually larger).

4.2.2 The Multiplicative Policy

This policy is inspired by the power save mode of the IEEE 802.16e [1], and more precisely, by type I power saving classes. There, the length of a sleep period is doubled over time until a maximum permissible sleep window, denoted b_{\max} , is reached. The size of the k^{th} sleep period is then $b_k = b_1 2^{\min\{k-1, l\}}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ where $l := \log_2(b_{\max}/b_1)$. We also have

$$t_k = b_1 \left(2^{\min\{k, l\}} - 1 + 2^l(k-l)\mathbb{1}_{k>l} \right), \quad k \in \mathbb{N}^*.$$

The cost of the power save mode of the IEEE 802.16e Standard can be derived from (19), yielding

$$V_{\text{Std}} = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n q_i e^{-\lambda_i t_k} \left[\epsilon E_L + \eta b_1 2^{\min\{k, l\}} \right]. \quad (25)$$

Instead of doubling the sleep periods over time, the multiplicative policy increases the sleep periods by a multiplicative factor f (in the Standard policy, $f = 2$). The performance is then optimized by controlling the factor f . In this policy, we have

$$b_k = b_1 f^{\min\{k-1, l\}}, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

$$t_k = b_1 \left(\frac{f^{\min\{k, l\}} - 1}{f - 1} + f^l(k-l)\mathbb{1}_{k>l} \right), \quad k \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

$$V_m(f) = -\bar{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}[\tau] + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n q_i e^{-\lambda_i t_k} \left[\epsilon E_L + \eta b_{k+1} \right] \quad (26)$$

$$f^* = \arg \min_{f>1} V_m(f). \quad (27)$$

The optimal f^* and the minimal cost $V_m^* = V_m(f^*)$ (the subscript stands for “multiplicative”) will be computed numerically.

4.2.3 The General Deterministic Policy

In this section, no particular pattern is imposed on the sleep periods. This policy is a generalization of the Semi-Constant policy as $m \rightarrow \infty$. We denote the cost as $V_d(\boldsymbol{\mu})$ where the subscript stands for “deterministic” and $\boldsymbol{\mu} := (b_1, b_2, \dots)$ is the deterministic policy. The cost has the same expression as (26). A necessary condition for the existence of an optimal control sequence $\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = (b_1^*, b_2^*, \dots)$ is that $\mathbf{grad} V_d(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = 0$. Our next step is then to compute the partial derivatives. We have, for $j \in \mathbb{N}^*$,

$$\frac{\partial V_d(\boldsymbol{\mu})}{\partial b_j} = \sum_{i=1}^n \eta q_i \left[e^{-\lambda_i t_{j-1}} - \sum_{k=j}^{\infty} \lambda_i e^{-\lambda_i t_k} \left(b_{k+1} + \frac{\epsilon E_L}{\eta} \right) \right]. \quad (28)$$

Proposition 4.4 *When $n > 1$, no optimal deterministic policy (with arbitrary period length) can be independent of $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$.*

5 Numerical Investigation

In this section we present numerical results when the off-time τ is either exponentially or hyper-exponentially distributed. In each case, the best control and the corresponding cost are computed.

Also, we utilize the results of section 4 to compare several classes of policies. The cost V captures the main performance measures: energy consumed during the sleep duration and extra delay incurred due to the sleep mode. The cost V is a weighted sum of both metrics. From (2), it follows that a large value of ϵ makes V more sensitive to the energy consumption than to the extra delay, whereas a small ϵ gives more weight to the delay.

The various policies are compared through: (i) the optimal expected sleep duration, (ii) the minimal cost achieved, and (iii) the relative improvement with respect to the IEEE 802.16e protocol. The improvement ratio, denoted I , is defined as follows: $I := (V_{\text{Std}} - V_r^*)/V_{\text{Std}}$ where the cost V_{Std} of the Standard policy is calculated using (25). The parameters of the Standard policy are $b_1 = 2$ and $l = 10$. The physical parameters are set to the following values: $E_L = 10$, $P_S = 1$.

5.1 Exponential Off-Time

In this case, the optimal is to fix all sleep periods to the value found in (8).

We evaluate three sleep policies from section 4 (cf. Table 2) and compare them. The performance of each policy depends on the arrival rate λ and on the normalized weight ϵ . In the following evaluation, we will alternatively vary one of the parameters and fix the other.

We first vary λ and fix ϵ to 0.1 and 0.9. The weight ϵ equal to 0.1 mimics the situation when energy consumption is given lower priority over delay, while ϵ equal to 0.9 mimics the opposite situation. Looking at Fig. 2, one can observe the impact of the arrival rate λ on (i) the optimal expected sleep duration (cf. Fig. 2(a)), (ii) the minimal cost (cf. Fig. 2(b)), and (iii) the cost improvement (cf. Fig. 2(c)). We naturally find that the expected sleep duration decreases as λ increases, as foreseen in (8). The physical explanation is that, a large arrival rate forces the mobile to be available after shorter breaks, otherwise the cost is too high.

Of more interest are the curves reported in Fig. 2(b), where the optimal cost achieved by the Constant policy always outperforms the costs of the two other policies. This is in agreement with the discussion in Section 3, namely, that the constant policy should be the optimal among all possible policies. The Exponential policy outperforms the Standard policy for a large range of values of λ as seen more clearly in Fig. 2(c) where $\epsilon = 0.1$.

Observe in Fig. 2(b) how the cost decreases asymptotically to ϵE_L (1 for $\epsilon = 0.1$ and 9 for $\epsilon = 0.9$) as the rate λ increases. The same trend is observed for the cost

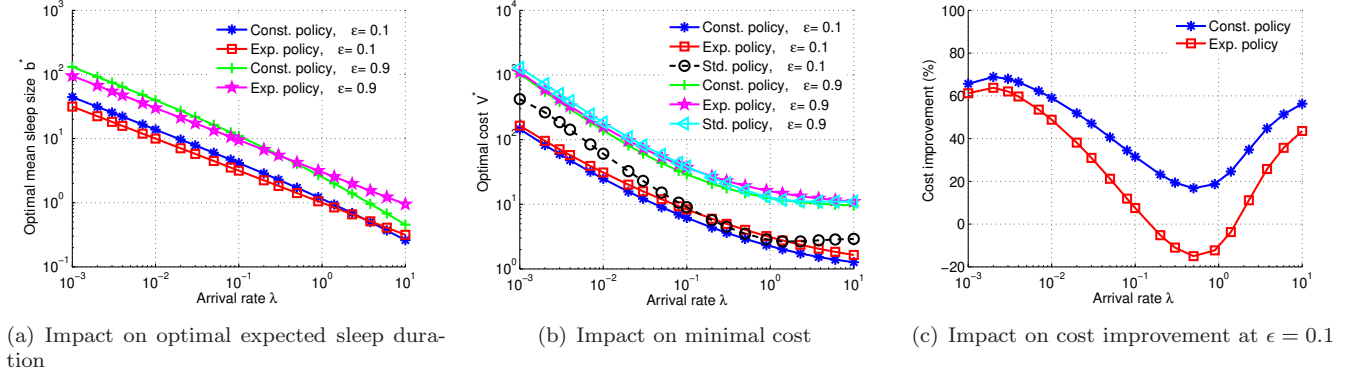


Figure 2: Exponential τ : Impact of λ for various sleep policies.

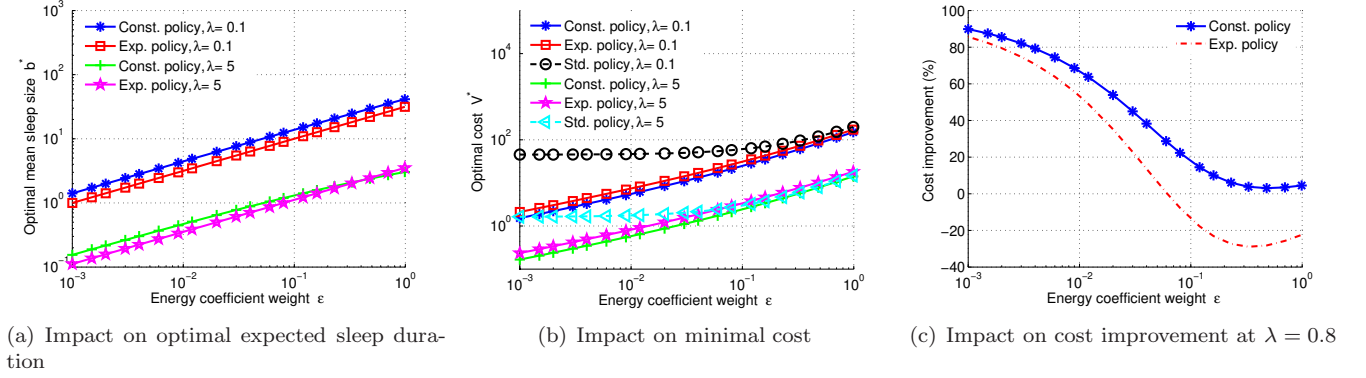


Figure 3: Exponential τ : Impact of ϵ for various sleep policies.

Table 2: Policies used for comparison when τ exponential

Policy	Optimal cost	Control and its optimal value
Exponential	(17)	expected sleep duration, (16)
Constant	(9)	size of fixed sleep duration, (8)
Standard	(25), $n = 1$	–

of the Standard policy. As λ decreases, the increase in V_c^* and V_e^* is due to the increase of the optimal expected sleep duration, while for V_{Std} the increase is due to the extra (useless and costly) listening.

We next vary ϵ and fix λ to 0.1 (low traffic) and 5 (high traffic). The results are depicted in Fig. 3. As ϵ gets smaller, the extra delay gets more penalizing, enforcing then smaller optimal sleep durations. This is observed in Fig. 3(a). As mentioned earlier, smaller optimal sleep durations yield smaller optimal costs. Thus, the optimal costs increase as ϵ increases as can be observed in Fig. 3(b). For $\epsilon < 0.1$, the cost of the Standard policy is fairly insensitive to ϵ . This is due to its compromising nature; the first small periods guarantee responsiveness if the off-time is short, and the large periods guar-

antee a good energy performance if the off-time is large. Evidently, this results in a total cost always above the optimal policies. Also, we can observe that the Standard has been designed to favor energy over delay: it performs quite close to the optimal policy when $\epsilon \rightarrow 1$, i.e. when the cost is indifferent to delay.

From Fig. 3(c), we find again that *the Constant policy is the best* and that *the Exponential policy outperforms the Standard policy in most cases*: the Exponential policy yields a substantial improvement over a large range of values of λ and ϵ .

5.2 Hyper-Exponential Off-Time

In this case, we compute two suboptimal policies using policy iteration. We compare the performance of these to that of the Exponential sleep policy and the Standard policy. The off-time distribution is hyper-exponential with parameters $\lambda = \{0.2, 3, 10\}$ and $\mathbf{q} = \{0.1, 0.3, 0.6\}$. The suboptimal solutions are evaluated using (18), the Exponential sleep policy using (17)-(16) and the Standard policy using (25).

The performance of the four policies is depicted in Fig. 4 against the energy coefficient weight ϵ . Naturally, the

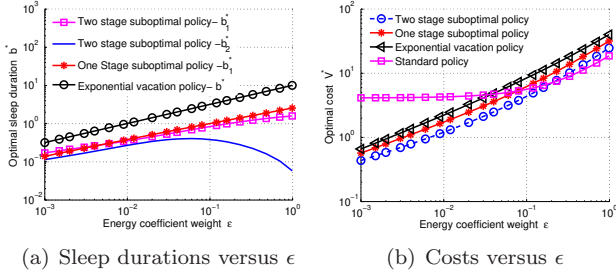


Figure 4: Sleep durations and costs with hyper-exponential off-times.

suboptimal policies perform strictly better than the Exponential sleep policy, having the two stage iteration policy strictly outperforming the one stage one (cf. Fig. 4(b)). Interestingly, for large value of ϵ , the Standard policy outperforms all the other policies. As observed earlier, the standard favors energy over delay, so that at large ϵ , it is very efficient in reducing the cost. It is expected however that n -stage policy iteration will outperform the standard for sufficiently large n .

Again, we utilize the findings of 4 to make a comparison between the Exponential, Constant, Scaled (cf. Section 4.1.3), Semi-Constant (cf. Section 4.2.1) and Standard policies. Analytical expression are available only for the Exponential policy, for the rest of the policies we resort to using numerical solutions.

For this study, we consider for τ two distinct distributions, namely, $\mathbf{q}^1 = [0.1, 0.3, 0.6]$ and $\mathbf{q}^2 = [0.6, 0.3, 0.1]$, yielding an expected off-time $\mathbb{E}[\tau]$ equal to 0.66 (high incoming traffic) and 3.11 (moderate incoming traffic), respectively. These values of $\mathbf{q}^1, \mathbf{q}^2$ have been intentionally chosen so as to show different behavior of the policies. The parameters of the Scaled policy are (distribution of the variable S) $\{a_1, a_2, a_3\} = \{0.2, 1, 3\}$ and $\mathbf{p} = [0.6, 0.3, 0.1]$. The optimal expected sleep duration is then $0.72\alpha^*$. As for the Semi-Constant policy, we report the results of the two-stage one (the first two sleep periods are allowed to have a different size from the rest of the sleep periods).

We vary the weight ϵ between 0.001 and 1. The impact of ϵ on the expected sleep period length, the cost and the cost improvement can be observed in Fig. 5. We observe the same trends for the optimal expected sleep period length and the optimal cost as with Poisson arrivals (cf. Fig. 3). Unlike the case in Fig. 3(b), the optimal cost achieved by the Constant policy (i.e., V_c^*) is not the smallest among all costs, at least at high arrival rate ($\mathbb{E}[\tau] = 0.66$ in Fig. 5(b)). The best performance at this arrival rate is achieved by the Exponential and Scaled policies for most values of ϵ . Notice the poor performance of the Constant and Semi-Constant policies, which, interestingly enough, exhibit the same trend as

the Standard policy.

The performance of the policies at moderate rate can be seen in 5(c)). For $\mathbb{E}[\tau] = 3.11$, the Exponential policy is the best whatever the weight ϵ , performing at least as good as the Standard policy if not better.

The last policy that we evaluate is the Multiplicative policy (cf. Section 4.2.2). We want to compute the optimal multiplicative factor for a variety of distributions of τ . To this end, the rates of the $n = 3$ phases is taken to be $C_\lambda \lambda = [0.2C_\lambda, 3C_\lambda, 10C_\lambda]$ and the probabilities of the phases are $\mathbf{q}^2 = [0.6, 0.3, 0.1]$. The expected off-time is then $\mathbb{E}[\tau] = 3.11/C_\lambda$. We vary the scaling factor C_λ from 0.001 (extremely low traffic) to 1 (moderate traffic).

Results are depicted in Fig. 6. One can deduce from Fig. 6(a) that the value $f = 2$ used in the Standard policy is actually optimal (considering the Multiplicative policy) when there is almost no traffic ($\mathbb{E}[\tau] = 3110$). Even though the values of f^* for different ϵ are very close to each other at $C_\lambda = 0.01$, we observe a large impact on the cost improvement (cf. Fig. 6(b)). We can conclude that the optimal cost is highly sensitive to the Multiplicative factor at very low traffic. This is not surprising as sleep periods increase exponentially in the Multiplicative policy, and this is more likely to happen when traffic is low.

6 Conclusion

The control of sleep periods for mobile terminals is studied. In particular, an optimization problem is formulated where the goal is to minimize energy consumption in wireless networks taking into account the incurred response delays. Previous models studied in the literature have considered an exogenous arrival process, whereas we considered an on-off model in which the off-time begins when the terminal goes to sleep mode and where the duration of the on-time does not depend on the delay imposed by the sleeping during the inactivity period. We derived the optimal policy in case of a Poisson arrival process and found many structural properties of the optimal policy for hyper-exponential and general off-times. Suboptimal policies have been derived in this case using one and two stage policy iteration. Also, we considered several constrained classes of policies with certain optimization parameters and degrees of freedom. Among them, we considered classes that depict the functionality of IEEE 802.16e standards. We showed how these classes are optimized and compared them with each other yielding insightful conclusions. When the off-time is hyper-exponentially distributed, we showed that the IEEE 802.16e standard can be improved substantially if the multiplicative factor is optimized. Also, if one gives small weight to the mobile's response delay and favors the minimization of energy use, then both the exponential and scaled policies are candidate to substitute the

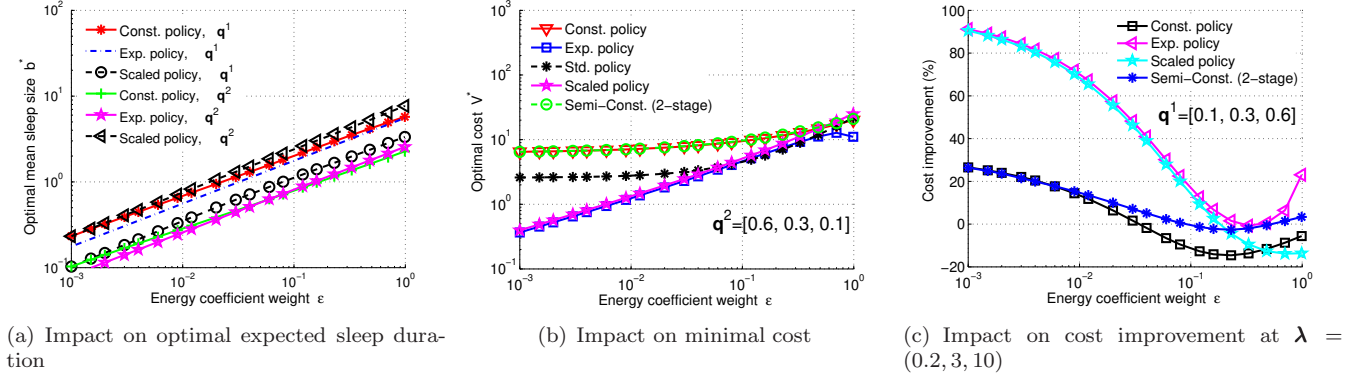


Figure 5: Hyper-exponential τ : Impact of ϵ for various sleep policies.

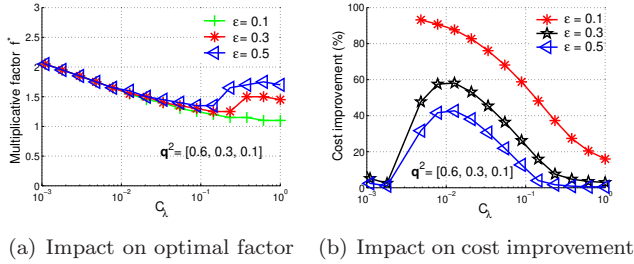


Figure 6: Hyper-exponential τ : Impact of C_λ on the multiplicative policy.

standard. The optimal control for the Exponential policy is found in closed form for a general off-time.

Furthermore, our model is general enough to capture other standards for sleep mode with small alterations, like the DRX of 3GPP LTE [2] and the WMM of IEEE 802.11 (WiFi) [30], a work left for the future. In terms of the model itself, a possible extension is to utilize renewal theory to capture the effect of residual interarrival off-time, thus changing the scope from interactive applications to applications where the service time biases the arrival process. Note, that the case $n = 1$, analyzed in this paper, covers both cases, but for $n > 1$ we have only covered interactive applications. Finally, in this paper, we have focused on policies that keep no memory of the past. Alternatively, one can study adaptive policies which can exploit the history of the inactivity period.

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